

EXHIBIT 16

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13 NFL Labor Dispute

14 DeMaurice Smith Press Statement

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Page 2

1 DEMAURICE SMITH: As two business
2 partners the most common fundamental principle
3 between the two of us has to be one of trust. It
4 has to be one of something that we can verify,
5 something that we can believe as common business
6 partners in any business.

7 I will tell you this. Any business
8 where two partners don't trust each other, any
9 business where one party says you need to do X, Y
10 and Z because I told you is a business that is
11 not only not run well, it is a business that can
12 never be as successful as it can be.

13 Over the last 12 days, 14 days, uh,
14 we've culminated a process that began two years
15 ago. It actually began even before we met on May
16 18th of 2009 where on behalf of every player of
17 the National Football League I wrote to Roger
18 Goodell and said, as we begin our negotiation
19 process after you have opted out of this
20 contract.

21 I call upon the National Football
22 League to do one simple thing. Show us the
23 financial justification for opting out of this
24 deal. Meet us half way as your business partner
25 and explain why you opted out of a deal where we

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1 The National Football League made a
2 proposal to us starting off at asking for a
3 billion dollars a year. And now with a great deal
4 of fervor and pride almost they wanted to
5 announce that our differences were only \$650
6 million and wouldn't it be great thing if we just
7 split the difference.

8 So today I'm sad for our fans, I'm sad
9 for our players. But I'll tell you what, the last
10 message to the owners of the National Football
11 League didn't come from the Executive Director.
12 It came from the Vice President of the Executive
13 Committee, Jeff Saturday. The last word to the
14 owners came from the Vice President named Brian
15 Waters.

16 The men who sat across from the owners
17 and did most of the talking today wasn't a lawyer
18 from DC. It was players who risk everything every
19 day for the game that they love.

20 So I'll tell you what, I know that we
21 have a long ways to go. I know that, uh, perhaps,
22 uh, the way people feel about football today is a
23 little bit less than what they felt about
24 football the day before. But I'm proud of the men
25 who have devoted themselves to be leaders.

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1 know that the business of football is hardy, we
2 know that the viewership is up, we know that the
3 love and the fervor for our game has not waned.
4 Meet us half way and provide us with a
5 justification for saying no to a new collective
6 bargaining agreement.

7 What I didn't know on that day when I
8 wrote that letter was at almost the same time I
9 wrote that letter the management council and the
10 leaders of the National Football League were
11 meeting in secret to talk about how they game
12 contracts to provide them with cash during a
13 lockout.

14 So while the players were moving
15 forward thinking that this was about fairness and
16 honesty and transparency, the National Football
17 League was meeting in secret to talk about
18 collusion, conspiracy, leverage and breaking our
19 union.

20 As we moved forward over those next two
21 years not knowing what was going on behind closed
22 doors we nonetheless did our best to engage in
23 something called collective bargaining and good
24 faith negotiation. Over the last 14 days we did
25 our best to do those things.

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1 So it is with a great deal of humility
2 and pride that I know that our forefathers, some
3 of, uh, whom are no longer with us, guys like
4 Reggie White, guys like Dave Duerson, I know that
5 the forefathers who are still with us named
6 McNeal and Nickerson and Powell, I know that
7 those men would stand proud that today the legacy
8 has been passed to guys named Brees and Manning
9 and Vrable. And even that torch has been passed
10 to a young Aggie who's decided to put his name on
11 a lawsuit that is gonna represent not only the
12 players of today but the players of tomorrow.

13 So I'll tell you what, we're gonna go
14 back to work, we're gonna do our best to save
15 football. But right now football is in good
16 hands. It's in the hands of the people who love
17 our game, it's in the hands of the people who
18 play and it's in the hands of the fans who dig
19 everything we do.

20 And on their behalf I'm sorry that
21 we're here but we'll be back.

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23 [END MEDIA]
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11 Attested to by:

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14 Patrick Weaver
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